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Approved For Release 2004/06/29 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000200040007-2

5 May 1960

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State Dept released foll 1300 hrs 5 May:

"The Dept has been informed by NASA that, as announced May 3, an unarmed plane, a U-2 weather research plane based at Adana, Turkey, piloted by a civilian, has been missing since May 1. During the flight of this plane, the pilot reported difficulty with his oxygen equipment.

Mr. Khrushchev has announced that a U.S. plane was shot down over the USSR on that date. It may be that this was the missing plane. It is entirely possible that, having a failure in the oxygen equipment which could result in the pilot losing consciousness, the plane continued on automatic pilot for a considerable distance and accidentally violated Sov air space.

In view of Mr. Khrushchev's statement, the U.S. is taking this matter up with the Soviet Government, with particular reference to the fate of the pilot."

**State Dept. review completed**

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